

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A twin-screw extruder for mixing and dispersing a material to be kneaded into a kneaded product having a desired state of kneading, said extruder comprising:

a barrel having two intercommunicating chambers; and

a screw set rotatably supported only at one end and mounted in each of said chambers so as to ~~sufficiently, but~~ not completely[[,]] mesh with one another, each of said screw sets comprising:

a rotor segment comprising at least one kneading rotor, said kneading rotor having a plurality of kneading blades which provide a plurality of tip clearances different from each other at least in the circumferential direction, said kneading rotor having a constant sectional shape in the axial direction, as viewed in a section transverse to the axial direction, except for crest portions of said kneading blades; and

a screw segment comprising at least one screw blade, said screw segment, except for crest portions of the screw blades thereof, having the same sectional shape as said at least one rotor segment comprising at least one kneading rotor, as viewed in a section transverse to the axial direction, except for the crest portions of said kneading blades.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The screw set in a twin-screw extruder according to claim 10, wherein said rotor segment provides a plurality of tip clearances different from each other in the axial direction of said rotor segment.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The screw set in a twin-screw extruder according to claim 10, wherein said same sectional shape is symmetric.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The screw set in a twin-screw extruder according to claim 10, wherein said screw sets rotate in the same direction.